

questions of conference may be settled according to His will.

VIANNA DETWILER.

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Take Hold and Lift

The Central Methodist.

There was very sound theology on its practical side, in the negro laborer's reply. A large steamer was taking on its cargo, and this man was laboring very earnestly at his appointed work. But another man was idling in the shade, and his comrade called out to him: "Sam, do you expect to go to heaven?" "Yes," was the reply of the idler. "Then take a hold and lift." How about the idlers and loungers seeking shady places and avoiding duty in the church? If an idler frittering away the time on the deck of a steamboat which belongs to another can not hope to go to heaven, what about the professed Christian who wastes his Lord's time and money? Let us be careful that this homely statement of the negro laborer does not condemn us.

Our Young People

One of the Best Hymns

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave, and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou, from hence, my all shalt be:
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought, or hoped, or known;
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heaven are still my own.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest;
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with thee.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation,
Rise o'er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in every station
Something still to do or bear;
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
What a Father's smile is thine,
What a Savior died to win thee;
Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

Haste, then, on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer;
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission;
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope soon change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

—Rev. Henry F. Lyte, 1824.

THE BROAD AND THE NARROW WAY

Matt. 7:13, 14

Topic Sept. 16.

There are many ways of stating the same truth. The scientist speaks of the survival of the fittest and the law of development thru use; Paul speaks of the flesh warring against the spirit and of the struggle which is necessary in keeping one's body in subjection. But Jesus puts the truth most clearly and simply in his illustration of the two roads, one broad and easy but downward and the other narrow and steep but upward unto higher and higher life.

In nature the parasite follows the broad road. Too indolent to earn its own living, it satiates its appetites upon the living tissues of other things. But what is the result? From lack of use the organs with which it begins life shrink away to nothing and the parasite becomes a mere stomach. The spiritual process is the same. Those who choose the easy broad way, that is choose to indulge the inherited animal appetites for pleasure rather than press on to the development of the spiritual nature, will find themselves growing more and more sensual until they become among those of whom Paul says "Their god is the belly; who mind earthly things." There is no escape from the truth Jesus taught. There is no way to virtue and the higher life save by the mortification of the lower. The way of progress must always be narrow and steep. Too narrow to admit of sin and too steep for the indolent to win. Therefore choose wisely and "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure."

SCRIPTURE HELP

- 1 All are going one way or the other. Matt. 12:30; John 3:36; Matt. 6:24.
- 2 The broad way is easy, Matt. 7:13.
- 3 Many go that way but they are all beastly, Rom. 3:12, 18; Rev. 21:27; II Pet. 2:9, 15; I Cor. 6:9, 10; James 1:8.
- 4 The way seems all right but has many evils, Prov. 14:12; 13:15; 4:19; 15:19.
- 5 It ends in the loss of the spiritual nature and the dominance of the mere selfish, sensual life. Ps. 146:9; Rom. 8:6; 6:23.
- 6 The narrow way, Matt. 7:14.
- 7 Who are found in it, John 10:9; Rev. 21:7; Matt. 19:17.
- 8 A happy way, Prov. 3:17.
- 9 It ends in the dominance of the higher life, Rom. 6:22; 7:6, 13.
- 10 Our guide and helper in the way of life, John 14:6; Matt. 11:27; I Cor. 12:31, with 13:1.
- 11 Our prayer, Ps. 27:11; 119:37.
- 12 Other good verses, Ps. 37:5; 77:13; Ps. 23:1-3; Eph. 4:17, 20; Col. 3:1-6.

TOPICS FOR TWO MINUTE TALKS

- 1 How to keep in the right way.
- 2 How to reclaim those who are going the broad way.

QUESTIONS

- 1 How is life like a road?
- 2 How early in life do we choose our ways?
- 3 What road are little children on?
- 4 Should children first try the broad way and a little later turn to the narrow? Why not?
- 5 After traveling either the good or bad way for some time is it easy to change? Why not?
- 6 Shall we keep on traveling the broad or narrow way forever? Rev. 22:10-12.
- 7 Is the broad or the narrow way the more happy?
- 8 What must we give up in order to travel the narrow way?
- 9 Why is the good way called narrow and the bad way broad?
- 10 How can one change from the broad to the narrow way?
- 11 Why do so many choose the broad way?
- 12 Why are you traveling the way you are?

SONGS SUGGESTED

- 1 Happy on the way.
- 2 I am the way.
- 3 I'll live for him.
- 4 Work for the night is coming.
- 5 I'm going home.
- 6 I will follow Jesus.
- 7 More holiness give me.
- 8 Take time to be holy.

This meeting might well be made a decision meeting. Have testimonies as to the profits and joys of the two ways and give an opportunity for all to accept the right way.

C. F. YODER.

Strength and Beauty of Character

J. R. Miller.

We are not in this world merely to do the pieces of work, large or small, that are set over against our hand. We are here to grow in strength and beauty of character. And it is not hard to see how this growth may go on continually amid life's daily toil and cares. If we are diligent, careful, faithful, prompt, accurate, energetic in the doing of a thousand little things of common life, we are building these qualities meanwhile into our soul's fabric. Thus we are ever learning by doing and growing by doing. There is an unseen spiritual building arising within us continually as we plod on in our unending tasks. Negligence in common duties mars our character. Faithfulness in all work builds beauty into the soul.

Get Ready

William T. Ellis.

Do you ever wish for the brave days of old, boys? I tell you no knight in armor ever had harder or holier duty than the duties which cry aloud for help from to-day's boys. Are you willing to pledge your life to this exalted battle for the right? If so, to-day's duty is to get ready. Get ready, by providing yourself with a strong, hardy body. In it keep a mind that is keen and drilled. Let your heart be pure and brave. Practice the doing of noble deeds and the thinking of beautiful thoughts. Master yourself so thoroughly that you may be fitted to master others. Then, in humble dependence upon the Savior of the world, endeavor to be the strongest, most helpful and most unselfish man that he will help you to be.

The Christian Life

Prayer

Speak to me, Lord! Thy word of consolation
Steals like sweet dew to freshen every hour;
Speak, I implore, a message of salvation
To shield my heart from keen temptation's power.

Thou art my life, my strength! Good Lord, remember

How weak I am, how prone to faint and fall!
When love burns low, breathe on each dying ember,
And with Thy breath its fervent glow recall.

Thou art my hope! How could I reach Thy heaven,
If Thou no helping hand didst lay on me?
Thy mercy oft my wanderings has forgiven:
Forgive once more, and bid me live in Thee!

—Henry W. Hawkes, in *Christian Register*.

A Window in Heaven

James Buckham.

Heaven seems like a strange country, and death like a strange voyage, only to those who live far away in thought and desire from both. It is only because we adopt earth as our home and renounce and forget our birth-place, heaven, that the thought of going back to our Father's house seems unwelcome. There ought to be in every human breast a life long homesickness for heaven; just as if we were children sent away to school (for that is what life is, a school,) and longing for the day when our education shall be completed, and we shall return by the familiar